IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figs. 3, 8, and 11-14 currently on file with the substitute Figs. 3, 8, and 11-14 enclosed herewith, wherein reference numerals in the drawings are being amended in coordination with amendments to the specification submitted hereinabove. A letter to the Draftsperson is attached hereto.

<u>**REMARKS**</u>

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 6, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

<u>Status of the Claims</u>

As outlined above, claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-16 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 4 and 12 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while claims 1 and 9 are being amended.

<u>Additional Amendments</u>

The specification and drawings are being amended to correct formal errors. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

<u>Formal Objections</u>

<u>Specification</u>

The specification was objected to on the grounds of informalities.

Regarding the reference number 310 in Fig. 3, Fig. 3 is being amended by removing the reference number 310.

Regarding the reference number 700 in Fig. 7, the corresponding portion of the specification is being amended as set forth above.

Regarding the reference numbers 800-805 in Fig. 8, Fig. 8 is being amended by replacing the reference numbers 800-805 with reference numbers 700-705, respectively.

Regarding the reference numbers 902-903 in Fig. 9, the corresponding portion of the specification is being amended as set forth above.

Regarding the reference number 1010 of Fig. 10, the corresponding portion of the specification is being amended as set forth above.

Regarding the reference numbers 1100, 1110 and 1111 of Fig. 11, Fig. 11 is being amended by replacing the reference number 1100 with the reference number 913, while the corresponding portion of the specification is being amended as set forth above.

-11-

Regarding the reference number 1200 of Fig. 12, Fig. 12 is being amended by replacing the reference number 1200 with the reference number 1013.

Regarding the reference numbers 1300 and 1301 of Fig. 13, Fig. 13 is being amended by removing the reference numbers 1300 and 1301.

Regarding the reference numbers 1400-1452 of Fig. 14, Fig. 14 is being amended by removing the reference numbers 1400-1452.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims

Claim 9 was objected to on the ground of the informalities.

Claim 9 is being amended so as to correct a typographical error. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections
The First 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejections

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Silverbrook et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,980,318 B1). As mentioned above, claims 4 and 12 are being cancelled, and the elements recited in claims 4 and 12 are now incorporated into claims 1 and 9, respectively. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

According to the M.P.E.P. §2131, a claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a), (b), and (e) only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

Claim 1

Claim 1 as amended recites that a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, comprises: a communication device for communication through a network; an calculation unit; a printer; and a storage unit storing therein, said communication device accepting from said sender a mail-sending request with said input form written in by using said digital pen, said mail-sending request including at least a mail message and pen stroke information that indicates the address of a recipient who receives said mail, said

-12-

calculation unit determining the destination of said mail-sending request on the basis of said pen stroke information that indicates said address included in said mail-sending request, said printer printing said mail including character strings that indicate said mail message and said determined destination, wherein said personal user information includes destination address information of said recipient of said mail, and wherein when said mail-sending request includes information input with an address card which is a digital pen input form associated with said personal user information of said recipient and which said sender has beforehand, said calculation unit searches for said personal user information on the basis of said input information of said address card to decide said destination address.

A mail system as recited in claim 1 uses an address card associated with recipient information. Fig. 4 illustrates an exemplary address card as recited in claim 1. A recipient registers his/her personal user information in the mail system. His/her personal user information includes his/her address. Each address card is linked with each personal user information according to, for example, a dot pattern on each address card (page 16, lines 11-13 of the specification). The address card is adapted for inputting the personal user using a digital pen (Fig. 10, page 14, line 22 to page 16, line 24). If a sender has the address card of the recipient, the sender fills a form and sends the form with the address card to the service company as a mail-sending request (Fig. 9, page 19, line 10 to page 22, line 4). A calculation unit in the service company computes a recipient ID from a pattern on the address card in the mail-sending request and determines the destination address which is retrieved from the stored personal user information (Fig. 11, step 1109, page 21, lines 11 to 21). Therefore, if a sender has an address card of the recipient, the sender need not know the address of the recipient. Also, even if the recipient moves into a new address but the sender does not know the new address, the mail is correctly delivered (page 5, line 9 to page 6, lines 14). Fig. 9 illustrates a flowchart of an exemplary mail sending operation in the mail system as recited in claim 1. If the sender has the address card of the recipient, the sender checks in the box A in a mail form as shown in Fig. 5, and also checks on the address card to link the mail form with the recipient information (page 15, line 13 - page 16, line 24, page 19, line 10 - page 21, line 27).

In contrast, Silverbrook shows that recipient information is maintained by a netpage registration server if a recipient is a netpage user. If the sender enters the whole name or a partial name of the recipient in the specific field on the screen, the list of the names matching with the input name is printed (col. 27, lines 65-68, col. 7, lines 24-54). The Examiner

asserted that Silverbrook teaches a storage unit storing therein personal user information that includes destination address information of said recipient of said mail, and wherein when said mail-sending request includes information input with an address card which is a digital pen input form associated with said personal user information of said recipient and which said sender has beforehand, said calculation unit searches for said personal user information on the basis of said input information of said address card to decide said destination address.

However, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Silverbrook merely shows a request form to write the name and the address of a sender. Silverbrook does not show or suggest an address card linked to the recipient's address stored in the netpage registration server. Therefore, Silverbrook cannot and does not show or suggest that when said mail-sending request includes information input with an address card which is a digital pen input form associated with said personal user information of said recipient and which said sender has beforehand, said calculation unit searches for said personal user information on the basis of said input information of said address card to decide said destination address.

Therefore, Silverbrook does not show every element recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Silverbrook.

Claim 9

Claim 9 has substantially the same features as those of claim 1, at least with respect to that said storage unit included in said mail system storing therein personal user information includes destination address information of said recipient who receives said mail, and when said mail-sending request includes information input with an address card which is said pen input form associated with the personal user information of said recipient and which said sender has beforehand, said personal user information is searched on the basis of input information of the address card so that said address can be determined. As such, the arguments set forth above are equally applicable here. Claim 1 being allowable, claim 9 must also be allowable.

Claims 2-3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-16

As to dependent claims 2-3, 5-8, 10-11, and 13-16, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 9 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being allowable, claims 2-3, 5-8, 10-11, and 13-16 must also be allowable.
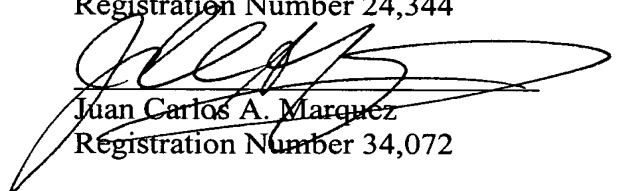
Conclusion

In light of the Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable action with regard to the present application, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

September 6, 2007
SPF/JCM/YOM